

Summaries of State and Local Programs

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the Massachusetts DEQE, and the USGS that integrates the local and regional interests with the state and federal activities. The program, called the Cape Cod Aquifer Management Project, seeks to coordinate several different levels of government concerned with ground water management. By Focusing on a target aquifer, the participating agencies will attempt effective allocation of resources to achieve concrete environmental results. One of the most important conclusions reached by CCPEDC is that ground water protection cannot be done exclusively at one level of government and that use of expertise at different levels is necessary to achieve meaningful results.

The existing program of CCPEDC has been successful in reducing problems or threats related to underground storage tanks, small generators (including households) of toxic and hazardous wastes, and high-density residential development. The program relies heavily on local action, frequently in the form of ordinances and zoning restrictions, which in turn require intercommunity cooperation, public awareness, and citizen involvement.

COLORADO

Overview of Ground Water Resources

Ground water constitutes 18 percent of the total water used in Colorado and, in some areas, is the main source for domestic and irrigation supply. Approximately 15 percent of the total population gets its drinking water supply from ground water. Ground water withdrawals for irrigation are 96 percent of total ground water withdrawals.

Geographic and topographic features cause significant differences in ground water availability and conditions from one part of the state to another. Major areas based on geology, topography, drainage, and physiography are the South Platte River basin, the Arkansas River basin, and the High Plains in eastern Colorado; the Rocky Mountain area in central Colorado; and western Colorado Plateau country.

Colorado has seven principal aquifers or aquifer systems. Four of the principal aquifers consist of unconsolidated deposits and include the alluvial aquifer along the South Platte River and its tributaries, the High Plains aquifer underlying the High Plains, and the San Luis Valley aquifer system in the Rocky Mountains area. Most ground water withdrawal, which in Colorado is for irrigation, comes from the aquifers in the unconsolidated deposits. The remaining three aquifers consist of consolidated rock and include the Denver Basin aquifer system, the Piceance Basin aquifer system in eastern Colorado, and the Leadville limestone aquifer in the Rocky Mountain area (see Table 3.4).